

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3231

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA CONTACT GROUP MEETING WITH AFRICAN GROUP
REPS SEPT 6

SUMMARY: THE CONTACT GROUP MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE AFRICAN GROUP AM SEPT 6 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON
THE SYG'S REPORT ON NAMIBIA. THE MEETING, HELD IN A
CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE, FOCUSED ON POINTS OF CONCERN
HELD BY THE AFRICAN GROUP REGARDING THE SYG'S REPORT.
AFTER A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THESE CONCERNS,
AMB MCHENRY CONCLUDED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, ONLY TWO
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ISSUES STILL SEEMED TO REMAIN TROUBLESOME: THE QUESTION
OF REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AND THE SIZE AND COST OF THE
UN FORCE. THE MEETING ENDED WITH AN AGREEMENT TENTATIVELY
TO HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON SEPT 7 AND TO HAVE A FORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
ON SEPT 8. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CONTACT GROUP MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN GROUP AM SEPT 6 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE SYG'S REPORT ON NAMIBIA. AMB TLOU OF BOTSWANA (CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP FOR SEPTEMBER), ACCOMPANIED BY REPS OF NIGERIA, GABON AND THE OAU, ACTED AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE AFRICANS. IN A CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE, TLOU OUTLINED POINTS OF CONCERN HELD BY THE AFRICAN GROUP REGARDING THE SYG'S REPORT:

(A) REGISTRATION OF VOTERS: TLOU NOTED THAT THE SAG HAD PROCEEDED WITH THE REGISTRATION UNDER ITS OWN PROCEDURES. HE SUGGESTED THAT A RE-REGISTRATION WAS CALLED FOR UNDER UN SUPERVISION. HE PROPOSED THAT A UN ELECTORAL COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE. AMB MCHENRY, ON BEHALF OF THE FIVE, RESPONDED THAT THE WESTERN FIVE PROPOSAL REQUIRED THAT THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (UNSR) BE SATISFIED WITH THE ELECTION PROCEDURES. MCHENRY SAID THAT THE PROPOSED "ELECTORAL COMMISSION" WOULD ONLY DO WHAT THE PROPOSALS SAID AHTISAARI WAS TO DO. THUS THE SUGGESTION OF A COMMISSION RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE CONFIDENCE PLACED IN THE SYG AND HIS REPRESENTATIVE. TLOU RESPONDED THAT THE AFRICANS MAINTAINED CONFIDENCE IN THE SYG. AT A MINIMUM, TLOU FELT THAT THE PRESENT ELECTORAL ROLLS MUST BE CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED BY AHTISAARI.

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(B) ELECTION CONSTITUENCIES: TLOU SUGGESTED THAT "SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES" BE CONSIDERED. MCHENRY REPLIED THAT THIS SORT OF DETAIL SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE SYG AND HIS REPRESENTATIVE.

(C) CEASEFIRE: TLOU SUGGESTED THAT BINDING, FORMAL CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS BE SIGNED BY BOTH PARTIES IN ADDITION TO PASSAGE OF A UNSC RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE. MCHENRY NOTED THAT SWAPO WANTED A FORMAL CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BECAUSE SWAPO HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA. BUT, HE REMINDED, "GOOD FAITH" IS A REQUISITE FOR BOTH SIDES. NO ONE, HE CONTINUED, HAD HEARD SWAPO SAY THAT THEY WOULD ABIDE BY A CEASEFIRE, AND SOME RECENT SWAPO STATEMENTS SEEMED TO SUGGEST THE OPPOSITE.

(D) ROLE OF THE UNSR: TLOU COMMENTED THAT THE ROLE OF THE UNSR SHOULD HAVE BEEN SPELLED OUT IN THE SYG'S REPORT. THE UNSR SHOULD HAVE PREPONDERANT POWERS. HE SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE TRANSITION. MCHENRY RESPONDED THAT THE POLITICAL PROGRESS REACHED THUS FAR ON THIS POINT WAS BASED ON INDICATING

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AG AND UNSR WITHOUT SPELLING OUT WHICH WAS PREDOMINANT. ANY CHANGE IN THIS DELICATE FORMULA MEANT NO SETTLEMENT. RICHARD (UK) ADDED THAT AHTISAARI HAD THE ULTIMATE LEVERAGE -- IF THINGS WENT WRONG, HE COULD RETURN TO THE UNSC.

(E) REPORTING: TLOU SUGGESTED THAT THE UNSR BE REQUIRED TO REPORT BACK TO THE SC ON A MONTHLY BASIS. MCHENRY REPEATED THAT THIS SUGGESTION SEEMED A REFLECTION ON THE CONFIDENCE GIVEN TO THE SYG AND THE UNSR. HE URGED

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THAT THE ASSURANCES GIVEN IN PARA 9 OF THE SYG'S REPORT BE SEEN AS SUFFICIENT.

(F) GUARANTEE OF SAG "GOOD FAITH": TLOU SUGGESTED THAT THE FIVE SEEK TO GUARANTEE THE "GOOD FAITH" OF SOUTH AFRICA. MCHENRY RESPONDED THAT THE FIVE COULD NO MORE GUARANTEE THE "GOOD FAITH" OF SOUTH AFRICA THAN THE AFRICANS COULD GUARANTEE THE "GOOD FAITH" OF SWAPO.

2. IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING THE GIVE AND TAKE ON TLOU'S PRESENTATION, MCHENRY SUGGESTED THAT SINCE VOTER REGISTRATION SEEMED TO BE THE PRIMARY AFRICAN
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CONCERN, EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON RESOLVING THAT CONCERN. HE URGED THE AFRICANS TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH THE SYG AND THE UNSR. AMB BLANKSON (NIGERIA) ADDED THAT THE QUESTION OF VOTER REGISTRATION WAS A VERY BOTHERSOME ONE AND SUGGESTED THAT THE ISSUE BE RAISED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS AGAIN.

3. AMB YOUNG COMMENTED THAT, OVER THE LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, THE FIVE HAD SOUGHT TO BRING ABOUT A COMPLETE REVERSAL OF POWER IN NAMIBIA. TO CHANGE A SITUATION WHERE 25,000 OR MORE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WOULD BE REPLACED BY A PREDOMINANT UN FORCE MONITORING A RESIDUAL SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE OF 1,500 TROOPS WOULD REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. AT THAT POINT, HE SAID, THE BARGAINING SITUATION WOULD CHANGE. THE PRESENT COMPLICATIONS WOULD NOT BE AS DIFFICULT ONCE THE UN FORCE WAS IN PLACE. UNTIL THAT TIME ARRIVED, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE MORE THAN WHAT WAS NOW REPRESENTED IN THE FIVE'S PROPOSALS AND THE SYG'S REPORT.

4. AMB LEPRETTE (FRANCE) POINTED OUT THAT IF ONE CONSIDERED ALL THE PREVIOUS OBJECTIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA, IT WAS NOT-EGWORTHY THAT ALL THESE CONCERNS NOW SEEMED BOILED DOWN TO ONE: THE NUMBER OF UN TROOPS. THE SOUTH AFRICANS, HE WENT ON, WERE WAITING FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP AND SWAPO TO REJECT THE SYG'S REPORT SO THAT THE ONUS WOULD BE ON THEM FOR SABOTAGING THE PROCESS. AMB RICHARD (UK) SAID THAT IT WAS NOW NECESSARY FOR THE AFRICANS TO REPOSE CONSIDERABLE TRUST IN THE SYG. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN SAID TODAY WHICH INDICATED THAT WE SHOULD NOT PROCEED RAPIDLY TO THE SC AND ALLOW THE UNSR TO GET ON WITH HIS JOB. AMB MCHENRY ADDED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THERE WERE
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ONLY TWO ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED:(1) THE QUESTION OF REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, AND (2) THE CONCERN OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS AS WELL AS SOME MEMBERS OF THE SC ON THE SIZE OF THE UN FORCE AND ITS COST. THE FIVE AND THE FRONTLINE STATES WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE COST SHOULD

BE ASSESSED THROUGH THE REGULAR BUDGET. MCHENRY
REQUESTED AND RECEIVED AGREEMENT FROM TLOU TO TENTATIVE
INFORMAL CONSULTATION OF THE SC ON SEPT 7 AND A FORMAL
MEETING OF THE SC ON SEPT 8. YOUNG

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